

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 031700Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5971

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 0020

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ' NEW YEAR ADDRESS: MINING
POLICY

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ'
STATEMENTS ON MINING POLICY IN HIS JANUARY 1 ADDRESS
TO THE COUNTRY:

2. THE EXPLOITATION OF MINING HAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY
CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATION'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT;
IN 1972 IT WAS LESS THAN TWO PERCENT. LICENSES FOR
MINE SURVEYING HAVE BEEN USED FOR SPECULATION OR HAVE
BEEN GRANTED TO INTERMEDIARIES WITHOUT THE COUNTRY
RECEIVING ANY BENEFIT. THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLAN SEEKS IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE PRESENT
SITUATION BY MEANS OF THE FOLLOWING MEASURES: A RAPID
INCREASE OF MINE-SURVEYING ACTIVITIES; PROMOTE NEW
SURVEYS BY COMPANIES USING EFFICIENT, PRODUCTIVE
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METHODS; PROCESSING AS MANY MINERALS AS POSSIBLE

IN THE COUNTRY; EFFICIENT USE OF FACTORS OF PRODUCTION, PARTICULAR LABOR, TO ASSURE MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND HIGHER WAGES; AND SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE COUNTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN MINE EXPLOITATION.

3. A NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL SERVICE WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH TECHNICAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS, AND MINING AREAS WILL BE TAKEN BACK FROM THOSE WHO HOLD LEASES BUT WHO ARE NOT MEETING THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THE COUNTRY. MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT EXPLOITATION IS CARRIED OUT BY THE STATE, JOINT CAPITAL COMPANIES OR PRIVATE CAPITAL COMPANIES WITH A MAJORITY OF HONDURAN CAPITAL. SOME OBJECTIVES CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IN THE MEDIUM TERM BECAUSE THE COUNTRY PRESENTLY LACKS THE NECESSARY HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM MINE EXPLOITATION PRESENTLY UNDERWAY.
SANCHEZ

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